

## March Monthly Progress Report

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African Strategies for Health

April 15, 2013

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**African Strategies for Health (ASH)**  
**Monthly Progress Report: March 2013**

**1. Notable Achievements**

- The main MNCH activity during March was the March 11-13 launch in Washington, DC, of the Systematic Review of Evidence on Relationships between HIV and Maternal Mortality.
- The ID Advisor developed and shared with USAID/PMI a draft assessment tool for IPTp provision at facility-level. The tool is expected to be used as part of a multi-country IPTp assessment.

**2. Technical Updates**

**A. Maternal, Newborn and Child Health**

Systematic Review of Evidence on Relationships between Maternal Mortality and HIV

The main MNCH activity during March was the launch of the Systematic Review of Evidence on Relationships between HIV and Maternal Mortality. The launch meeting took place in Washington, DC from March 11-13, including a half-day meeting with USAID on March 12. The Review is continuing, with the dissemination meeting with USAID planned for April 30.

Malaria in Pregnancy

The ASH ID Advisor developed and shared with USAID/PMI a draft assessment tool for IPTp provision at facility-level. The first assessment may be done in Benin, depending on discussions with PMI and USAID's country mission in Benin. The activity will be conducted in collaboration with the ARM3 Project in Benin. ASH also participated in the finalization of the Consensus Statement, Optimizing the delivery of Malaria in Pregnancy Interventions, March 2013. The consensus statement was developed by the Roll Back Malaria, Malaria in Pregnancy Working Group.

**B. Infectious Diseases**

TB

At the request of WHO AFRO, the ID Advisor held a three-way teleconference with USAID/AFR and AFRO. The purpose of the call was to discuss a planned meeting in Brazzaville during which the Pediatric framework that has been under development by AFRO will be discussed with a small group of stakeholders. The meeting is scheduled for early May 2013. USAID's Global TB Team will be invited to participate as well as representatives from TB-CARE. In addition, USAID indicated that a new hire will start during April and will be responsible for TB/HIV activities in the Africa Bureau.

### IDSR

Preparations for the anticipated IDSR evaluation continued during March. A consultant was hired to assist CDC with the evaluation process. This includes the development of a logic model for the evaluation, provision of technical leadership for a literature review and provision of inputs into the evaluation protocol. CDC hosted a two day meeting in Atlanta during which a logic model was developed for the evaluation process. The draft model has been shared with WHO AFRO for their thoughts and inputs.

### HIV

The ID Advisor held discussions with USAID to discuss the landscape review of African institutions and discussed the anticipated focus on determining the role that Regional Economic Communities may play in supporting the implementation of major HIV initiatives.

## **C. Health Systems Strengthening**

The M&E Advisor developed a scope of work for an mHealth consultant and began the development of the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the mHealth compendium.

## **D. Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)**

The M&E Advisor completed the development of the ASH M&E plan.

## **3. Management and Administration**

### **A. Finance**

Financial data for March, 2013 has not yet been closed by the accounting. It is expected that the information will be available on or around April 21, 2013. Therefore, for the purpose of this report expenses for March, 2013 is based on estimates.

1) Total Obligation	=	\$6,783,004
2) Expenses		
Total expenditure and accruals as of February, 2013	=	
\$3,818,825		
Estimated expenses for March, 2013	=	<u>\$ 200,000</u>
Total estimated expenses as of March 31, 2013	=	<u>\$3,418,825</u>
Pipeline (1-2)	=	\$2,765,000

### **B. Project Management**

ASH received from USAID/AFR the final version of the review of ASH Strategic Teams. As a follow-up to the Nairobi meeting with USAID regional missions, ASH

staff revised the project's annual workplan. However, these activities are still pending approval, based on budget and other priority considerations.

### **C. Project Communication and Dissemination**

#### **ASH Website and Communication**

USAID were given screenshots of the proposed ASH website and feedback was requested. USAID mentioned that they would like to see previous project publications included on the site. ASH will move forward in drafting content for each of the pages while waiting for any further feedback from USAID. A second version of the website will be finalized and forwarded to USAID for their review in April. The ACD advisor also finalized work on a dissemination tracking document for ASH project technical documents, and continued work on the communications and advocacy strategy for IDSR. She also prepared a second draft of the elected leaders paper, which she shared with her co-author. The paper should be forwarded to USAID for review by the end of April.

#### **African Leadership for Child Survival: A Promise Renewed (ALCS)**

The ASH ACD Advisor received feedback from appointed colleagues and finalized the report for the ALCS meeting held by the Ethiopian Ministry of Health, USAID, and UNICEF in January 2013. The meeting report was forwarded to the USAID/AFR team.

#### **Review of USAID family planning programs in Africa**

During March, the ASH team selected an FP consultant, received USAID approval to move forward, and subsequently completed the contracting process for completing the review of USAID family planning programs in Africa.

#### **AGOA**

In March, the ACD Advisor drafted a scope of work for the recruitment of the consultant who will write a short background paper highlighting linkages between health, trade and development (particularly with reference to healthy work force and productivity and outlines the opportunities and issues related to the impact of healthy workforce on increased trade and economic growth) for the USAID conference session at the annual AGOA meeting in Addis Ababa in June-July this year. ASH will also work with USAID/AFR to design materials needed (folder, flyer, etc.) for the session.

**D. Partnership Collaboration**

The ASH team continues to develop its draft strategy for partnering with regional African institutions. The M&E and ID Advisors also continued to review literature on the role of regional economic communities in Africa.

**E. Other Updates**

**a. Staffing**

The ASH Technical Director resigned on March 28, 2013.

**F. COR Meetings**

Two COR meetings took place on March 5 and 19, 2013

**G. Potential Issues or Areas Needing USAID Support**

No issues needing support.

**4. Key Activities Planned for Next Month**

- a. Continue the systematic review of evidence on relationships between HIV and maternal mortality
- b. Continue the development of the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of ASH's mHealth Compendium for the upcoming USAID/Global Health SOTA meeting in May
- c. Write website content and forward for approval
- d. Continue work on the communications and advocacy strategy for IDSR
- e. Work with FP Program Review consultant to produce the final report
- f. Recruit a consultant for the AGOA health and trade paper
- g. Design folder and session flyer for AGOA USAID health and trade session
- h. Continue to work on the communications and advocacy strategy for IDSR
- i. Continue the development of the ASH draft partnership strategy
- j. Finalization of technical papers on community strategies as well as on advocacy with parliamentarians and other elected leaders

**5. Attachments**

- a. Updated list of COR Letters and Related Clearances